

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A heat-developable image recording material comprising:

a support;

a photosensitive silver halide;

a reducing agent for a silver ion;

a binder; and

a non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain,

wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has:

1) substantially no silver stearate;

2) a length/width ratio of 1 to 9;

3) an aspect ratio of 1.1 to 30; and

4) an equivalent-sphere diameter of 0.05 to 1 μm ;

5) a content of silver behenate that is ~~90 to 100 mol%~~ 97 to 100 mol% per mol of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt; and

6) a content of silver arachidate that is 3 mol% or less per mol of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain is prepared at 60°C or less.

7. (Original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain is prepared by adding an aqueous silver nitrate solution and a solution or suspension of an organic acid alkali metal salt to a closed mixing vessel.

8. (Original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain is desalted by an ultrafiltration.

9. (Original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises an image-forming layer containing the photosensitive silver halide and the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain.

10. (Original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 9, wherein the image-forming layer further contains the reducing agent for a silver ion and the binder.

11. (Original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 9, which further comprises a second image-forming layer containing the reducing agent for a silver ion and the binder.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)